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Bangalore Mirror

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POT CHECK

What's in the flower pots?

PAGE 2

BUS PRIORITY

Lane addition of 83 km

PAGE 4

Plumes of dust rising from construction site in CV Raman Nagar have residents gasping for breath for nearly two weeks

UNDONE & DUSTED

Guidelines for mitigating dust pollution overlooked

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents in a sub-locality of CV Raman Nagar are upset about extreme dust pollution caused by ongoing construction work at Bagmane Tech Park. Citizens BM spoke to said heavy plumes of dust in the surroundings have left them gasping for breath for nearly two weeks.

"A lot of drilling and hammering activities are happening at the site. However, rather than vacuuming the excess dust or sprinkling water, workers are using an air nozzle to blow away the dust before pouring the concrete. The place has become unliveable," said a resident of an apartment complex near the construction site.

Residents complained a thick blanket of dust is settling inside their houses and causing health issues for the elderly and children.

"The construction site has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"We are cleaning the house multiple times a day. My mother, with an existing respiratory issue, has been coughing constantly at night

— resident of area

How low wages affect women's mobility

'Mobility inequality: women with low income spend 14% of wages for transportation in Bengaluru'

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A study has found mobility inequality to be a lived reality for low-income women in Bengaluru as they allocate around 14 percent of their hard-earned wages to meet their transportation needs.

This is in stark contrast to their white-collar counterparts who allocate only five percent of their earnings towards travelling in the city.

This disparity in the financial burden associated with transportation costs have come to light following a gathering organised by the Bengaluru-based women's collective, Alli Serona.

Alli Serona is a collective of women from the informal workforce, CSOs, and artists in Bengaluru, that has been largely working on public transport, given the close links it has to the lived experiences of the women as well as climate mitigation possibilities.

The findings are based on Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) where nine participants were in attendance in an FGD with a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

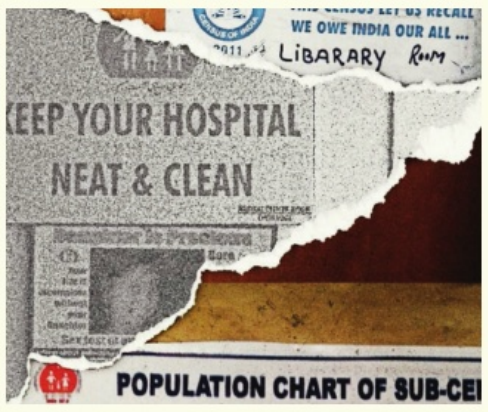
01 Travel fair

Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF), India's oldest and largest travel trade show network is back. With participation from various Indian states and the private sector, TTF Bengaluru is a platform for connecting with over 100 exhibitors, eager to showcase their travel products. The show is strategically timed just before the upcoming summer vacation travel season.
Where: Palace Grounds, Tripura Vasini, Gate 2 & 3 (Near Mekhri Circle)
When: February 16 to 18

02 Glam galore

Start this fresh season with high fashion as India's favourite fashion showcase. HI Life Exhibition is back with fresh fashion collections. Style up your new year look with a stunning new range of designer wear, jewellery, bridal wear, fashion accessories, and much more. Make a style statement this new year with stylish fashion collections.
Where: The Lalit Ashok
When: 17 to 19 February

03 Your facts, my facts



Explore the dynamic intersection of facts and perspectives at the upcoming event, "Your Facts, My Facts," hosted by the Bangalore International Centre. Engage in thought-provoking discussions and gain insights into the diverse perspectives shaping our understanding of contemporary issues.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: 16 February, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Roadshow 2024

South African Tourism concluded the penultimate chapter of its 20th Annual India Roadshow at ITC Gardenia with Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head India and South African Tourism, addressing the press conference.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Mosquito breeding hotspots: Check your flower pots

Survey reveals alarming presence of Aedes Mosquito breeding sites; urgent measures needed to combat Dengue spread in residential areas

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If you are a plant lover, make sure to keep a close eye on those pots. To prevent the spread of dengue in the city, a group of Bengaluru-based researchers surveyed 102 dengue-confirmed households in different localities of Murugeshpalya a few months ago. Researchers found plastic barrels and flower pots to be the most prominent breeding ground for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes – the carriers of the dengue virus.

"Various Aedes mosquito breeding habitats such as buckets, cement tanks, ditches, flower pots, iron drums, plastic barrels, rubber tyres, Sintex tanks, water pits in peri-domestic areas and buckets, flower pots, flower pots in nurseries, fridge trays, plastic barrel, and rubber tyre in intra-domestic areas were examined. Among these breeding habitats, plastic barrels (55 per cent) and flower pots in nurseries (42 per cent) were found to be prominent breeding sources," noted the study.

The survey was conducted during the first week of August 2023 with the help of the list of dengue-confirmed patients received from the healthcare authorities. Samples were collected within a 100-metre radius of each of the dengue-confirmed 102 households, enumerating 347 people from the selected areas.

Among the 102 households, 27 households were found positive for pupae, and out of 174 containers examined, 52 containers were positive with the presence of immature stages of Aedes species

Among the 102 households, 27 households were found positive for pupae, and out of 174 containers examined, 52 containers were positive with the presence of immature stages of Aedes species.

The study also found that a large number of individuals studied for the survey reported a higher frequency of mosquito bites had the presence of positive mosquito breeding sites in their surroundings such as fridge trays and flower pots, in addition to other breeding sites such as rubber tyres, highlighting the significance of local mosquito exposure.

Researchers underlined that areas with high exposure should undergo necessary precautions to prevent outbreaks through source reduction measures, including regular anti-larval and anti-adult measures.

"Health education and behaviour change regarding open tanks/water storage and discarding artificial containers need to be emphasised in such areas. Containers must be properly covered up; unused containers must be discarded and weekly cleaning of containers must be performed to prevent cohabitation of species. Special emphasis on fridge trays and rubber tyres, which were potential breeding habitats in our study, should be given," noted the researchers.

The survey was conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Malaria Research Field Unit and National Institute of Virology Bengaluru units of the Indian Council of Medical Researcher (ICMR), Jain (Deemed-to-be-University) School of Allied Healthcare and Sciences, JSS (Deemed-to-be-University) Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mysuru, Indian Air Force station in Bengaluru, and National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control at Directorate of Health & FW Services, Bengaluru. The study was published in the Journal of Tropical Medicine.

Money stolen, victim awaits news for 7 months

Citizen says police haven't shown much interest in tracing thieves or taking action

In a distressing incident highlighting the growing concerns over safety and delayed justice, a 30-year-old citizen took to social media to recount his experience of theft and the subsequent lack of progress in the investigation. The victim, Anfal Shaikh reported a loss of Rs 1,75,000 after the money was stolen from the boot space of his scooter in the Jeevan Bhima Nagar police station limits seven months ago in 2023. According to the victim's account, the incident occurred when his wife and he went to a bank to withdraw money.

After withdrawing the cash, they placed it in the boot space of the scooter and proceeded to a nearby restaurant for lunch. It was only upon reaching a petrol pump later that the victim discovered that his bag, containing the substantial sum, was missing.

"We withdrew money from the bank and kept it in our bike. We were hungry, and my wife was not feeling well. After having lunch, we went to the petrol pump to fill petrol. When I opened my scooter's seat, I found that my money bag was missing. Someone had been following us since the bank. I started crying, ran here and there, but it was of no use. After some time, I went to the police station to file an FIR," the victim told BM.

Distraught and seeking immediate assistance, the victim approached nearby establishments, including the restaurant, for CCTV footage, only to be met with the news that the cameras were non-functional. Frustrated by the lack of viable leads, the victim turned to the authorities at the Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police Station to file a report. However, he alleges that he encountered ridicule and indifference from the police officers, further exacerbating his anguish and sense of helplessness.

Expressing his disappointment and disillusionment with the law enforcement agencies, the victim lamented the seven-month-long ordeal of waiting for justice to be served. He criticised the perceived inefficiency within the Bengaluru City Police, and alleged apathy towards his case.

"There is no update from the police, they just always laugh whenever I go to the police station," claimed the man.

The Bengaluru police on its official X account replied that the matter has been forwarded to the police station concerned and DCP East.

CRIME FILES

Blackmailer operating from prison

A woman has lodged a complaint of blackmail against a man who is in prison. She alleges that a group of men, including the prison inmate, have been using manipulated images of her daughter to extort money from her, threatening to disseminate them on social media if their demands aren't met.

The police have initiated an FIR against the primary suspect, identified as Manu alias Manoj alias Kencha, who is currently detained in jail.

According to the 43-year-old complainant, Manu began threatening her in August 2023, with edited images and videos of her daughter. The victim states that Manu demanded Rs 5 lakh, threatening to send the manipulated content to her son-in-law if she failed to comply. Last August, the victim received explicit images of her daughter via WhatsApp and paid Rs 40,000 as instructed by the blackmailer.

On February 9, the victim received another demand for Rs 5 lakh from Manu's associate, Karthik. When she refused, Manu, using a WhatsApp call from jail, reiterated the threat.

The victim also alleges that her daughter received similar threatening messages.

Unable to meet the demands, the woman sought help from the Yelahanka New Town Police and filed a formal complaint.

Couple on the run after murder for gain

A man and his wife are being sought by authorities after being accused of murdering a 43-year-old woman named Manjula in Lakshmipura on February 11. The couple allegedly strangled her at their home to steal her jewelry. The Madanayakanahalli Police are on the lookout for the suspects, Jeevan and Asha.

According to police, Manjula, who was planning to attend a family function at her daughter's house, was last seen alive on February 11. She had known Jeevan and Asha for approximately a year. Jeevan reportedly offered to escort Manjula to a nearby bus stop, but instead, he took her to their home, where he and his wife allegedly committed the crime.

The body of Manjula, who worked as a betel nut seller, was later put in a sack and disposed of in the sump of their rented residence.

Sandeep, Manjula's son, reported her missing to the Madanayakanahalli Police Station on February 12. On February 13, Manjula's body was discovered in the sump. When contacted, Jeevan and Asha claimed to be out of town. However, they allegedly switched off their mobile phones after being asked by the police to return for questioning regarding the discovery of the body on their property.

BM Education

Tim Cook: AI can personalise AR learning experiences, making them more effective and engaging for each student

Don't fall for fake news: CBSE

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been cautioning students and educators against the proliferation of fake news, particularly concerning the upcoming CBSE Class X & XII Exams. Dr. Sanyam Bharadwaj, the Board's Controller of Examinations, stressed the importance of remaining vigilant amidst the circulation of misinformation surrounding the exam schedule. The CBSE annual examinations for classes X & XII have prompted the Board to implement comprehensive measures ensuring the smooth and equitable conduct of the exams. However, Dr. Bhardwaj highlighted a recurring issue during exam periods, where certain malicious entities exploit social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and Telegram to spread rumors of paper leaks and question paper access.

"These unscrupulous individuals often circulate fake links to purported sample papers, falsely claiming that exam questions will be sourced from these materials. Additionally, they may share fabricated images or videos of question papers, falsely asserting access to exam content in exchange for monetary compensation. Such deceitful activities not only aim to defraud vulnerable students and parents but also sow confusion and panic within the community," Dr Bharadwaj added.

Acknowledging the severity of the situation, the CBSE officials claimed that they have remained vigilant in identifying and addressing instances of fake news dissemination. Collaborating with law enforcement agencies, the Board is actively monitoring social media platforms to take stringent action against those involved in spreading misinformation. Any student found engaging in such activities will face disciplinary action under the UNFAIR MEANS rules and sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **BMB**

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5th May 2024 / 25th May 2024 / 26th May 2024 / 8th June 2024 / 9th June 2024

Bus Priority Lane set to expand additional 83 km

Rs 280 crore expansion plan to cover nine high-density routes for better public mobility

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Bollards for bus priority lane in several sections on Outer Ring Road were removed due to Metro work and opposition from private vehicle owners

The Bus Priority Lane (BPL) experiment on Outer Ring Road (ORR), from Central Silk Board to KR Puram, was halted due to the Metro network. However, authorities are now gearing up to reintroduce BPL on other roads in the long run.

The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) sources have revealed plans to implement BPL along the nine high-density corridors covering 83 kilometres, accompanied by bicycle tracks. The proposed BPL expansion will include Mysuru Road, Magadi Road, Tumakuru Road, Kanakapura Road, Hosur Road, Old Madras Road, Old Airport Road, Old Ballari Road, and ORR between Goraguntepalya and KR Puram. The estimated cost for this project is Rs 280 crore, incorporating 3.5 metres of an exclusive lane for buses only.

A senior BBMP official said, "We have proposed constructing BPL along the nine high-density corridors. A private agency is currently designing, and once done, we will float tenders for the project. The lane will be as per the width of the road. Where the roads are wide, we will incorporate the bicycle lane as well."

Mobility experts argue that BPL will give a significant boost to public mobility. Earlier, the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) had planned the extension of BPL from Tin Factory Junction to Mysuru Road (29.6 km on either side). This project is to be developed by Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL). The DULT has also planned for 12.9 km of BPL on Hosur Road (Central Silk Board to Bommasandra) and 8.7 km on Airport Road (Hebbal Flyover down ramp to Bagalur Junction). However, all these projects were on paper and never implemented.

Experts stress that it is high time BPL is popularised as it will help in the speedy movement of buses and learning from the challenges of ORR BPL.

The BPL was taken up on a pilot basis from the Central Silk Board to KR Puram from November 15, 2019. The BPL has several advantages. For example, it took 45 minutes to one hour to travel between the Central Silk Board to Tin Factory junction on the busy outer ring road. However, if the BPL was followed strictly, then the buses would reach the destination in less than half an hour.

"We need to learn from mistakes of the past to make it better next time. I have analysed the challenges of BPL on ORR. The yellow line was missing in many places. Even bollards were removed. So, the motorists sharing this road with the buses are clueless if the bus lane exists in the absence of a dedicated yellow line. Another disadvantage was that bus lanes were of the same width even at the bus stands. The real challenge there is that if one bus stops, then all the other buses have to follow the stoppage as they cannot violate the yellow lane to overtake. There was a tendency among the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) drivers to stop for more than the designated time so that they could accommodate more passengers. But, this also meant that the waiting time for buses behind the stopping bus would only increase. The demarcation of bus lanes has been a big debating point. For some time, BBMP tried to install bollards but it came under criticism. So, the bus lanes were marked with two striped yellow lines. However, the absence of barricades was inviting violators. Hope these teething troubles will be kept in mind and come up with solutions when the BPL is introduced next time," said Chandan G, a techie who had been observing the BPL when it was operational.

Experts said that there is a need to educate motorists so that they don't interfere with the bus. The whole purpose of the bus lane is to prioritise buses, enabling faster travel and attracting a larger crowd, thereby reducing traffic and pollution.

BPL is gaining prominence in various Indian cities, with Surat leading the way with an extensive coverage of 101 km. Following closely, Ahmedabad boasts 97 km, while Bhopal has dedicated 24 km to BPL. Other cities contributing to this initiative include Pimpri-Chinchwad at 22.5 km, Hubballi-Dharwad at 22.4 km, Jaipur at 20 km, Indore at 11 km, Rajkot at 10.7 km, Vijayawada at 10 km, and Amritsar with 9 km.

Road to nowhere: Citizens demand proper repairs amidst repeated faulty work

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The Doddakannelli - Chikkanayakanahalli Road, a vital link connecting Sarjapur Road, Doddakannelli, and Electronic City, has fallen into a state of disrepair, causing widespread inconvenience to residents and commuters for over two years. The road, which was once a well-maintained thoroughfare, has been subjected to relentless digging by telecom operators and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). The situation has been exacerbated by unscientific filling practices involving a concrete-cement mix, as well as the overuse of roads by tankers and heavy construction vehicles.

According to the Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Comprehensive Development Plan, Doddakannelli - Chikkanayakanahalli Road was earmarked for widening to a range of 80-100 feet. Despite this plan, citizens have been left waiting for concrete actions to address the ongoing deterioration of the road. The Citizens Movement East Bengaluru team has consistently pleaded for intervention, and it wasn't until recently that MLA Mahadevpura, Manjula Arvind Limbavali's team initiated some action. Unfortunately, efforts undertaken so far seem to be nothing more than patchwork, falling short of addressing the root causes of the road's degradation.

Expressing growing frustration, the residents of the area are now urging the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to intervene promptly and authorise a comprehensive development plan for Doddakannelli - Chikkanayakanahalli Road. The current state of the road not only causes daily inconvenience but also raises serious concerns about safety and accessibility for residents who rely on it for their daily commute.

Residents have voiced their concerns, one of the members from Citizens Movement - East Bengaluru said, "The road has become a nightmare to commute on. The constant digging and inadequate repairs have turned it into a hazard, risking accidents and damage to vehicles."

Another resident said, "We have been patient for too long. The road is a lifeline for our daily activities, and the government needs to take immediate action to ensure our safety and convenience."

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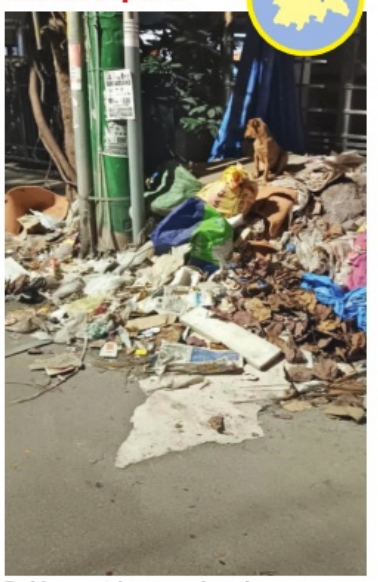

Pai Layout is experiencing a worsening situation with debris from construction being continuously dumped on the road.

Hanging wires
St Mark's Road

Wires are dangling from above and are in a mess.

Pothole planet
Babusapalya

Flower Garden Road is riddled with potholes and has not been repaired for the last two years.

DIG IN, FOLKS

Exploring food trends with culinary delights to look forward to in 2024

As we are moving closer to welcoming a brand new year, the food scene is always something that we all look forward to. It ever disappoints with innovations and fusions that delight every food enthusiast. With a captivating array of dining experiences, from innovative flavors to sustainable practices, the coming year promises a delightful journey for all those foodie people. Let's dive into the anticipated food trends that will shape our dining experiences in 2024.

The Rise Of Plant-Based Products

Embracing a plant-centric approach to dining, 2024 will witness an increasing number of vegan delicacies. Veggies will get the status of the star of the plate, catering to both vegetarians and those seeking sustainable, plant-based alternatives. Expect a surge in creative plant-powered dishes that celebrate the richness of natural flavors.

Global Fusion Flavours

The fusion of diverse culinary traditions will take center stage, offering an exciting melting pot of global flavours. Example Korean tacos, Indian-inspired pizzas, or Mexican dim sum. This trend reflects a growing appreciation for cultural diversity and a desire to explore new, boundary-defying taste sensations.

Say Hello To Sustainable Seafood

With increased awareness of sustainable practices, seafood lovers can anticipate a surge in ocean-to-table dining experiences. Restaurants will prioritise responsibly sourced seafood, focusing on the ecological impact of their choices. Diners can relish guilt-free delights while supporting marine conservation efforts.

Mindful Eating

As health and wellness take priority, expect more restaurants to curate menus that focus on nutrient-rich ingredients. Mindful eating experiences will emphasise the connection between what we consume and our overall well-being. Restaurants will offer wellness-centric options, catering to those seeking nourishing meals that fuel both body and soul.

Experience Restaurant Style Food At Home

The popularity of DIY meal kits will soar in 2024, allowing food enthusiasts to recreate restaurant-quality dishes in the comfort of their homes. Expect to see curated kits featuring pre-measured ingredients, chef-inspired recipes, and premium produce, providing a culinary adventure without leaving the kitchen.

As we embark on a culinary journey into 2024, these trends promise to redefine the way we experience food. **— Femina**

LIKE SPICY FOOD? YOU'LL LIVE LONGER

A study, by the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, has found that consumption of hot red chili peppers is associated with a 13 percent reduction in total mortality, primarily in deaths due to heart disease or stroke.

Going back for centuries, peppers and spices were thought to be beneficial in the treatment of diseases, but only one other study, conducted in China and published in 2015, has previously examined chili pepper consumption and its association with mortality.

So, this new study, published recently in PLoS ONE, corroborated the earlier study's findings.

Using National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES) III data, collected from more than 16,000 Americans, who were followed for up to 23 years, researchers examined the baseline characteristics of the participants, according to hot red chili pepper consumption.

Hot on trail of bacteria resistant to antibiotics

Researchers develop paper-based detection method

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Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed a paper-based platform that could help detect the presence of antibiotic-resistant, disease-causing bacteria. The rapid diagnosis protocol is expected to ensure a timely diagnosis and improve treatment efficiency.

"Generally, doctors diagnose the patients and prescribe medicines. The patient then takes it for 2-3 days before realising that the medicine is not working and goes back to the doctor. Even diagnosing the bacteria as antibiotic-resistant from blood or urine tests takes time. We wanted to reduce that time-to-diagnosis," said Uday Maitra, professor at the Department of Organic Chemistry, IISc. Researchers say misuse and overuse of antibiotics have given rise to disease-causing bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. A handful of such bacteria – including E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus – have caused over a million deaths, and these numbers are projected to rise in the coming years, according to the World Health Organisation.

There are different ways by which a bacterium becomes resistant to antibiotics. In one, the bacterium evolves and can recognise and eject the medicine out of its cell. In another, the bacterium produces an enzyme called -lactamase, which hydrolyses the -lactam ring – a key structural component of common antibiotics like penicillin and carbapenem – rendering the medication ineffective.

The approach developed by the IISc and JNCASR team involves incorporating biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (BCA) within a supramolecular hydrogel matrix containing terbium cholate (TbCh). This hydrogel normally emits green fluorescence when UV light is shined on it.

There are different ways by which bacteria become resistant to antibiotics

> **Even diagnosing the bacteria as antibiotic-resistant from blood or urine tests takes time. We wanted to reduce that time-to-diagnosis**
>
> – Uday Maitra, IISc professor

"In the lab, we synthesised an enzyme substrate by tethering BCA to the cyclic [-lactam] ring that is a part of the antibiotic. When you mix this with TbCh hydrogel, there is no green emission as the sensitiser is masked. In the presence of -lactamase enzyme, the gel will produce green emission. -lactamase enzyme in the bacteria is the one that cuts open the drug, destroys, and unmasks the sensitiser BCA. So, the presence of -lactamase is signalled by green emission," explained Arnab Dutta, PhD student in the Department of Organic Chemistry, IISc, and lead author of the paper.

The luminescence signals the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and the intensity of the luminescence indicates the bacterial load. The green intensity was found to be extremely low for non-resistant bacteria, making it easier to distinguish them from resistant bacteria.

The next step for the researchers was to find a way to make the technology inexpensive. Currently, used diagnostics instruments are costly, which drives up the price for testing.

The team collaborated with a Tamil Nadu-based company called Adiuvo Diagnostics to design a customised, portable, and miniature imaging device, named Illuminate Fluorescence Reader. Infusing the hydrogel in a sheet of paper as the medium reduced the cost significantly. The instrument is fitted with different LEDs that shine UV radiation as required. Green fluorescence from the enzyme is captured by a built-in camera, and a dedicated software app measures the intensity, which can help quantify the bacterial load.

The team from IISc tied up with Jayanta Haldar's research group from JNCASR to check their approach to urine samples. "We used samples from healthy volunteers and added pathogenic bacteria to mimic Urinary Tract Infections. It successfully produced the outcome within two hours," explained Maitra.

As the next step, the researchers plan to tie up with hospitals to test this technology with samples from patients.

Construction dust blankets residential area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been causing trouble to the residents for more than a year now — earlier it was night-time construction activities, now it is the dust pollution from the site. We cannot leave the doors and windows facing the site open as dust enters inside. We are cleaning the house multiple times in a day. My mother, with an existing respiratory issue, has been coughing constantly at night. We purchased the flat a year ago; we are in no situation to move out," said another resident of the area.

There are various guidelines and rules in place around mitigating dust pollution from construction sites. One such guideline by the Central Pollution Control Board under C & D Waste Management Rules 2016 talks about sprinkling of water/fine spray from nozzles to suppress dust re-suspension at the construction site. It further mandates that C&D wastes or construction material whether stored or transported in lorries/tractors be covered to control the pollution. It also highlights that operations of equipment used for crushing/hammering etc. at construction sites generate dust and thus the area should be enclosed and water sprinklers should be used to suppress dust emissions.

To combat this problem, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) came up with a set of norms in 2016. Citing these norms, the Karnataka government issued a series of directions to builders in 2018. Directions were given to road development agencies such as BDA, BMRCL, BBMP, and real estate developers. They were told to ensure regular watering at construction sites, apart from the use of tarpaulin covers on site. The state government had also directed the builders to take measures such as creating green air barriers, fixing sprinklers on site, and compulsorily using wet jets in grinding and stone-cutting activities.

Dust rises from the construction site

"None of these rules are being followed at the site. My car gets completely blanketed in dust every 30 to 45 minutes. This shows the amount of dust coming inside our houses and entering our lungs," lamented another resident.

According to healthcare experts, air laced with high amounts of dust particles can have short-term to long-term health impacts. It can cause lung damage, sore throat and exacerbate pre-existing respiratory issues.

"Dust pollution is more harmful to children as they breathe in at twice the rate as adults. A large amount of dust particles inhaled by them may lead to lung damage as their lungs are still developing. Those suffering from underlying medical conditions may find their ailment exacerbated, causing discomfort. In areas with high dust pollution, people should keep their doors and windows closed," said Dr Sumanth Mantri, senior consultant, pulmonologist at Apollo Hospital, Bannerghatta Road.

Income disparity & mobility of urban women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marginalised section of women, and 10 were in an FCD with white-collar women.

Ashish Verma, professor in the civil engineering department at the Indian Institute of Science, cited these figures to underscore the urgent need for improving the last-mile connectivity of residents from the city's informal sector.

According to experts and decision-makers, implementing 149 km of bus priority lanes, along with accessible footpaths and cycle lanes in Bengaluru, could increase the use of public transport to 78 percent.

"What we once knew as 'hallis' or villages are now part of the city, and yet their residents must travel long distances across Bengaluru to earn a living. This becomes increasingly challenging as the city lacks good transport and transport infrastructure. To address these issues, an improved network of public transportation, particularly buses, is necessary to better serve the citizens of an evolving urban landscape,"

> **149 km of bus priority lanes, with accessible footpaths, cycle lanes boost public transport**

said Mallika Arya from Alli Serona.

In a step forward over the past year, lower to middle-class women from the city, including garment and domestic workers, found relief in the Shakti travel scheme which has significantly impacted their lives.

The collective noted the scheme has empowered women as key providers of their families nutrition, finances, and healthcare. Despite negative portrayals on social media, testimonies from various groups have emphasised the scheme's positive impact, leading to increased bus ridership and touching the lives of 36.8 crore women commuters within two months.

Jaya Dhindaw, executive director of WRI (World Resources Institute) India, said: "You realise that the vulnerable, the poor, the ones who have contributed least to the problems of urbanisation and climate change, are the ones suffering the most because of it, and they will continue to unless remedial measures are taken."

Expressing concern about the challenges that informal sector workers face, Ankit Bhargava, co-founder of Sensing Local, highlighted the need for urban development with a focus on strategic initiatives.

"There must be a strong focus on building local data sets for urban planning, first-and-last-mile connectivity, and footpaths for walkability," he said.

"There is an urgent need to enhance connectivity through a comprehensive and inclusive strategy for development," added Prarthana Ramesh, head of environment city systems at Janaagraha. Meanwhile, with one of the five suggested routes suggested by Alli Serona being approved in January 2024, the collective is consistently leveraging its shared expertise to ensure that more such changes are taken to the next level through coordinated efforts.

Sleep well

Find the best type of mattress for your needs with this guide

A lot of factors come into play when you're trying to get a good night's sleep, but your mattress certainly has the most important role. All mattresses are made with different materials to cater to varying needs, so choosing one that suits your sleeping style and requirements best is key.

If you're waking up each day with an aching body, it's time to get yourself a mattress that'll give you the restful sleep you need. Check out the types of mattresses available and pick one that suits you best.

Innerspring Mattress

Also known as coil mattress, this type of mattress has metal springs or coils on the inside for support. The number of coils and how they are distributed determines the quality of support the mattress will offer. Coils can be interconnected or individually pocketed, the former type offering more durability while the latter reducing ripple effect. If you sleep with a partner that wakes up before you or is a restless sleeper, a mattress with reduced ripple effect will keep you from feeling their movements.

On the whole, innerspring mattresses are great for all kinds of sleepers looking for a firm, supportive mattress. These mattresses may be topped with latex or memory foam, discussed further.

Air Mattress

High-end air mattresses look similar to coil mattresses but they have air-filled chambers on the inside as opposed to coils. Like coil mattresses, air mattresses can be topped with latex or memory foam. Air mattresses can be adjusted for firmness on each side, so are great for couples where both partners have different sleeping preferences.

Latex Mattress

Made from natural or synthetic rubber, latex mattresses provide a firm, bouncy support. Using a latex mattress or a latex mattress topper can help relieve back pain because the material pushes back against the sleeper, offering support. If you're looking for something softer, latex isn't right for you.

Memory Foam Mattress

Memory foam mattresses are made up of different layers of foam, varying in density. The foam responds to weight and temperature, contouring to the shape of the sleeper's body. Memory foam mattresses also reduce pressure on joints and relieve pain. They are also able to absorb movement. The only drawback of memory foam mattresses is that they can make the user feel hot.

– by Kalwyna Rathod, Femina

FAQs About Types Of Mattresses

- **How to pick the perfect mattress?**
  Equipping yourself with knowledge by carrying out rigorous research is always a plus. Make a list of the issues you have with your existing mattress and then go through the options and shortlist the mattresses correct for you. Test them out at the shops and go to different brands to get an idea of the price ranging. Then opt for a mattress that not only fulfils your requirements but also fits into your budget. You can never be too picky when choosing a mattress.

- **Which is the best mattress for joint and back pain relief?**
  The best mattresses which can help you get some pain relief are Memory Foam, Latex, Gel, Orthopaedic mattress and Hybrid. Depending on your budget and other requirements, pick between these five options.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Muniraj. S R/o No 4/1-1, Pushpa Residency, 1st C Cross, Mathikere Blr-54 Changed My Name Muniraja to Muniraj. S for All Future Purposes.

I, Thabrez C/o Syed Imthiyaz R/o #2/8 GF,4th Cross, Mysore Rd , Kuvempu Nagar B'lore-560026 have changed my name to Syed Tabrez for all purposes.

I, Sumeet Gajanan Harti s/o Gajanan Harti R/o No-318/319, 41st Cross 19th Main,5th Block HBR Layout, B'luru--560043 have changed my name to Sumeet Harti for all Purposes.

I Menmalli Thriveni W/O, Menmalli Nagaraja R/o No.153/65/19/42/c106ff Inland Edilon Apartment Industrial Area Residential House Vishmal Mart Yelahanka New Town Bengaluru - 560064 have changed my name to Menmalli Nagaraja Triveni.

I, K Rajeshwari W/o Ravidrachar Residing at No.8, 8th Cross, Kowdenahalli, Ramamurthynagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560016 have changed my name from Ravindrachar Rajeshwari to K Rajeshwari vide affidavit dated 15.02.2024 Sworn Before Notary K.C.Shashikala, Bengaluru.

I, Roshni Khatoon Ekramulla Khan D/o Ekramulla Khan Basheer Ahamed Khan Aged About 31 Years Residing At Koolz Topaz Hill, G4, BMK Layout,Shampura New Extn, No.11, 1st Main, R T Nagar, B'luru-560032 wish to state that my name, my father's name and my mother's name is incorrectly printed as Roshini Khatoon E, Ekramulla Khan and Reshma Khanum. It has to be corrected to Roshni Khatoon E (E- Ekramulla Khan), Ekramulla Khan Basheer Ahamed Khan and Reshma Begum respectively as per our Aadhaar cards vide affidavit dtd: 10/02/2024 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

I, DINAKAR RAJASEKARAN S/o RAJASEKARAN BALACHANDER R/o No. C10-7045, Ebony Block, Sobha Forest View Apts, 100ft Vajarahalli main road, Bangalore 560062 have changed my minor son's name from ESHWAR to ESHWAR DINAKAR for all purposes

I Pratheek Bhonsley S/o Bhonsley M. M R/o Yelahanka, Bangalore have changed my from Pratheek Manjunath Bhonsley to Pratheek Bhonsley for all future purposes

I, Srinatha S S/o, Kaishna Rao Seetharaman R/o No 32 Ground Floor Mla Building Jalahalli Bengaluru 560013 have changed my name to Srinath S for all purposes.

I, Komal Nirmal alias Komal Khanted D/o Nirmal Kumar r/o #7,4th Cross,A M lane Chickpet cross,Chickpet B'luru-560053 have changed my name to Komal for all purposes

I Steven Sridhar B, S/O Bala Krishna, Residing at #12, 8th B Street, Sir MV Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016 has changed my name from B Sridhar to Steven Sridhar B for all future purposes

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I, Parvathy Yamuna W/o Pradeep Kongoth Prabhakaran aged about 41 years residing at No.108, Cosmos Calista, 1st Floor, 9th Main, Nri Layout, Kalkere, Ramamurthy Nagar, B'luru-560016 wish to state that my name and my spouse's name (husband's name) is incorrectly printed as Parvathy Yamuna Pradeep And Praddep Kongoth Prabhakaran respectively. It should be corrected to Parvathy Yamuna and Pradeep Kongoth Prabhakaran as per my Aadhaar card and his Passport respectively vide affidavit dtd: 14/02/2024 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, Shivaraju Puttegowda Bokkegowdnadoddi S/o Puttegowda Bokkegowdanadoddi Prabhakar R/o #142 MIG KHB 12th Cross Suncity Main Rd,kengeri, B'lore-560060 have changed my name to Shivaraju Bokkegowdanadoddi Puttegowda for all purposes

I, Baig Mahmood S/o Khadir Basha R/o 192/32, 6th main, official colony, East-Jayanagar, 1st block, Bengaluru 560011 have changed my name to MAHAMOOD BAAG affidavit Dt.15/02/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Lokesh Mahabaleshwar S/o Mahabaleshwar J Naik, R/o No.67B, Jogi mane keri,Post-Muroor, Tq-Kumta, Dist-Uttara Kannada 581362 have changed my name to Lokesh Mahabaleshwara Naik affidavit Dt.27/01/2024 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Priscilla Ching Biaki D/o V Zaliana R/o 783, 2nd Floor, 11th Main, 5th Cross, 4th Block, Good Year English School, HBR Layout - 560043 have changed my name to Priscilla Chingbiakmuang for all purposes

I, VEDHASHREE R YADAV D/o Radhakrishna. R, Residing at No 74/A, 31st A Cross, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bangalore -560070. My father's name is wrongly mentioned in passport as Rachkrishna Rachaiah instead of Radhakrishna R. vide affidavit dated 12/02/2024 before Notary Mohammed Hussain.K Blore.

I, Mahamad Khaiser Hameed S/o Mohamed Yousuf, Ward No 27, Farha Nagar, Jeevanpur Mohalla Daira, Channapatna, PO: Channapatna, DIST: Ramanagar, Karnataka- 562160 have changed my name to Mohammed khaiser Hameed

I, Prakash Amratlal S/o, Amrat Lal Mehta R/o No. 122, Prathamm Indraprastha, No 49/4, Rajajinagar Industrial Suburb, Po Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore 560022 have changed my name to Prakash A Mehta for all purposes.

I, Annamali Arumugam S/o Annamalai R/o 455, 3rd cross, 3rd stage, Pillanna Garden, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name Armugam Annamalai (Armugam A) affidavit Dt.15/02/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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CENTRE'S ADVISORY LIKELY TO MAKE BIKE TAXIS LEGAL

States, UTs advised to accept, process applications for contract carriage permits for motorcycles

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A new advisory from the Central Government could lead to bringing bike taxis under the legal ambit. The state government and union territories have been asked to see bike taxis as 'contract carriage'.

The new advisory issued by the Office of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on January 22, could alter the fate of bike taxis in the state. Bike taxis that are considered 'illegal' have been operating under the stay order issued by the Karnataka High Court. But the new advisory asks all the States/ UTs are advised to accept and process applications for contract carriage permit for motorcycles by the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the rules thereunder.

The advisory stated that the Ministry had been made aware that certain States/ UTs are processing applications for grants of permits, taking the view that the 'motorcycle' is not eligible to play under contract carriage or operate as a transport vehicle.

However, quoting Section 2(7) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (The MV Act) and Section 2(28), the government clarified that vehicles having less than four wheels fitted with engine capacity exceeding 25 cubic centimetres are also included within the definition of motor vehicles. Hence, 'motorcycles' shall fall within the ambit of Section 2(7) of the MV Act.

Additionally, as per sub-section (3) of section 178 of the MV Act which imposes a fine of up to Rs 50 on the holder of a contract carriage permit for a two-wheeled contract carriage or the driver thereof, for refusal to ply the same or to carry the passengers.

> **"We commend the Centre's proactive stance in clarifying the regulatory landscape for bike taxis. We find the recent advisory from the Centre to be incredibly encouraging, as it clarifies the legal standing of bike taxis opening up new avenues for transportation and income generation**

"We commend the Centre's proactive stance in clarifying the regulatory landscape for bike taxis. Now, more than ever, we urge the state governments to support us by aligning their procedures and guidelines with this advisory," said a spokesperson with Rapido.

A cab drivers' union, however, opposed the plan. "Government should consider lakhs of cab drivers and crores of auto drivers who would be affected by this. This will not be beneficial for the industry as well as the passengers. We would be writing to the state government to not implement this advisory in Karnataka. We will go to High Court or Supreme Court to fight this move," said Tanveer Pasha, President of the Ola Uber Drivers' and Owners' Association.

Just 3,152 gig workers applied for insurance

The labour department has noted that it has received applications from only 3,152 gig workers in regard to the insurance scheme which was notified in September last year.

The scheme has a cover of Rs 4 lakh for gig workers, with a life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh and an accident cover of Rs 2 lakh. When introduced, it aimed at covering close to 2.3 lakh gig workers across the state. So far, no claims have been made from the registered set of gig workers. Since the introduction of the scheme, there have been two deaths due to road accidents. However, the victims were not registered to avail of the insurance. The labour department has been conducting awareness programmes and holding meetings with aggregator companies regarding the scheme.

Out of the total number of applications received from across the state, 2,321 have been approved, 793 are under process, 22 have been forwarded, and 16 have been rejected. The department has noted that aggregator companies are hesitant to share data regarding their gig workers citing reasons including that a single gig worker may be employed across many companies and a worker who many have registered with the company might not be actively working for them.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the insurance scheme for gig workers in the state budget in July. The state is also expected to come up with the Gig and Platform Workers' Bill which will ensure that the interests of gig workers are safeguarded. **BMB**

Bengaluru Open 2024: India's Sumit Nagal packs off Coleman Wong

SPORTS

Second-seed Sumit Nagal of India continued his sensational unbeaten run to enter the singles quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open 2024 after beating Hong Kong's Coleman Wong in straight sets at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Nagal, who won the ATP Challenger title in Chennai last week, was in total control of the second-round clash on centre court, packing off Wong 6-2, 7-5 in an hour and 45 minutes.

The World No.98 Nagal quickly opened up a 3-1 lead in the opening set and then broke Wong once again to wrap up the set. Wong put up a better fight in the second set, breaking Nagal in the fifth game. But the Indian responded by breaking back his opponent's serve without dropping a single point immediately to draw level.

He then made the most of his experience to keep the 19-year-old Hong Kong player at bay to close out the set and match four games later.

Nagal will now face fifth seed Adam Walton of Australia, who defeated Belgium's Gauthier Onclin 6-2, 6-2 in the second round in the prestigious ATP Challenger event being organised by Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association.

Earlier, seventh seed Stefano Napolitano of Italy got the better of Canada's Vasek Pospisil 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. The former World No. 25 Pospisil, who was given a wild card for the tournament, had fought back after losing the opening set to force a decider. While he hit eight aces, the Canadian was also guilty of nine double faults and it hurt his chances in the final analysis.

KAUSHIK JN

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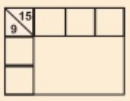
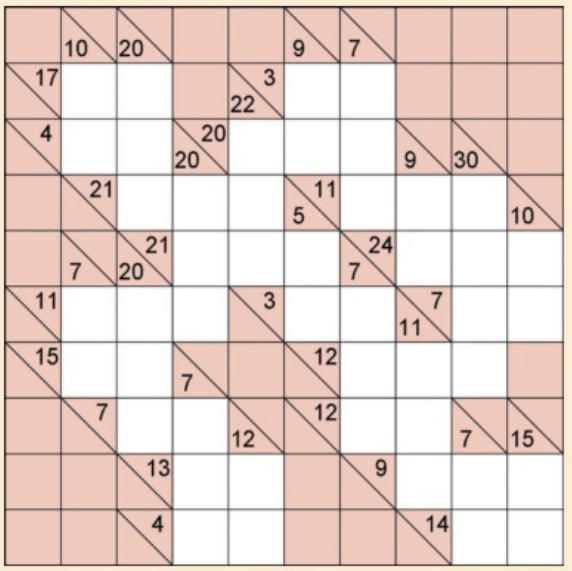
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

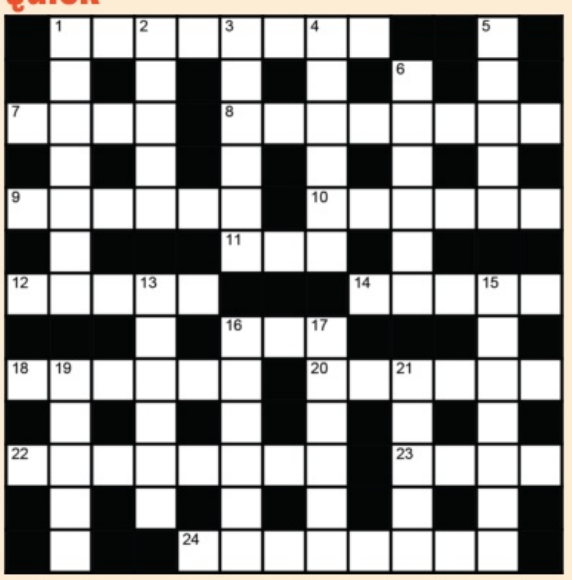


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Aniston or Lopez of Hollywood (8)
7 Ancient alphabet used in Celtic inscriptions (4)
8 Wedding ceremony (8)
9 Concealed (6)
10 Augustus, Tiberius et al (6)
11 Slang word for pistol (3)
12 Wash in water (5)
14 ___ in: Well-informed (informal) (5)
16 Records (3)
18 Japanese number puzzle (6)
20 Analyses a sentence (6)
22 Hold back (8)
23 Slip sideways (4)
24 Moves backwards (8)

DOWN

1 Theatre on Varthur Road (7)
2 Indicated or identified (5)
3 One of the four possible in a test match? (6)
4 Send goods abroad (6)
5 Gourdlike fruit (5)
6 Depressingly dreary (6)
13 Snobbish (6)
15 Mournful dirges or poems (7)
16 Crescent shaped? (6)
17 Live as a parasite (6)
19 Consumers (5)
21 Corrodes or oxidises? (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS H

SN S ZSD UN, NB AY NYYN. SN IAY YXY UN LBKZYR, NWHA SKY UIN OBEYKN.

Linemaro

You are the most charming person in a 50-mile vicinity

Mindchow

All our sweetest hours fly fastest

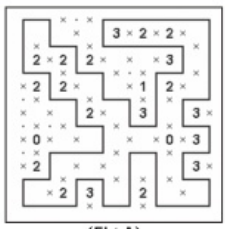
Joke of the day

My girlfriend makes me want to be a better person – so I can get a better girlfriend

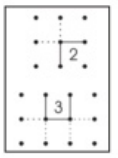
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

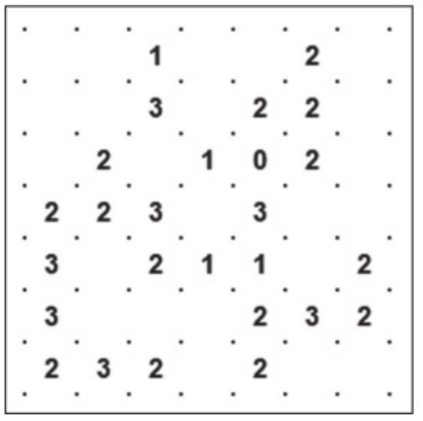


(Fig B) Not Allowed

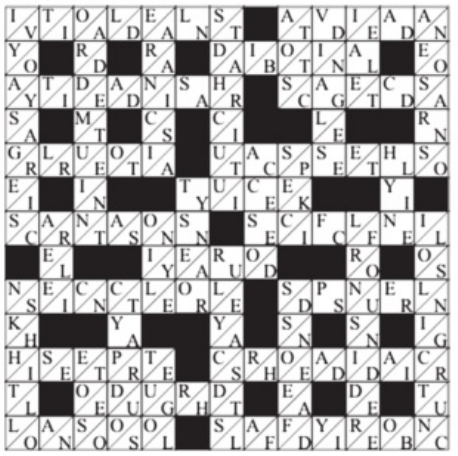
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



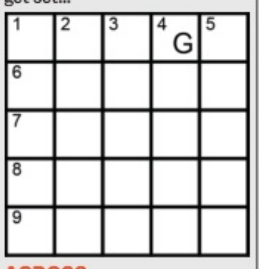
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 A egad; 6 A drum; 7 Mason; 8 I dime; 9 On Dec

DOWN

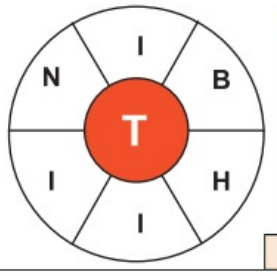
1 Manic; 2 U Doom; 3 I'm Dan; 4 Edgar; 5 Aedes

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

9, 16, 13, 13, 17, 10, 21, 7, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

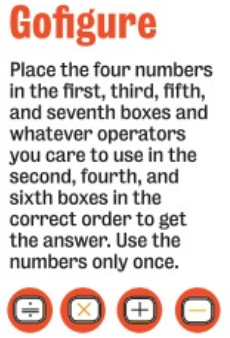
SudokuChallenge

5	3		6	1			7	
			5		8		2	
	6							
				5				6
3	4		7		2		9	1
8				9				
							6	
	1		9		4			
	8			3	7		5	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 10

1 3 6 8

Medium = 12

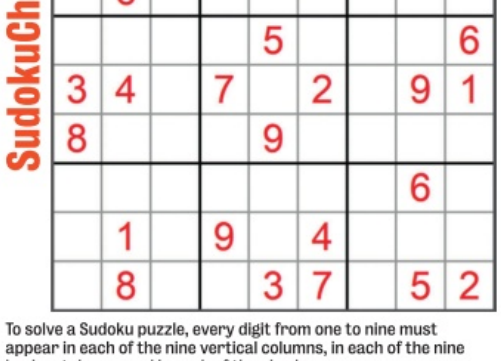
4 5 6 7

Hard = 5

1 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



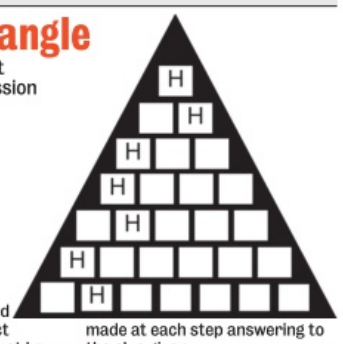
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Glove is different. 3. Bat is longer. 4. Neckline is different. Fence is added. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

Starting with E, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach BASTILLE.

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 Surprised expression
3 That girl
4 Run quickly
5 Portion
6 Red suit
7 Break to bits



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I THINK THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS IS CHECKING UP ON US, REDEYE
YEAH? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. JUST A CRAZY FEELING I HAVE
11-10

Bizarrotrip

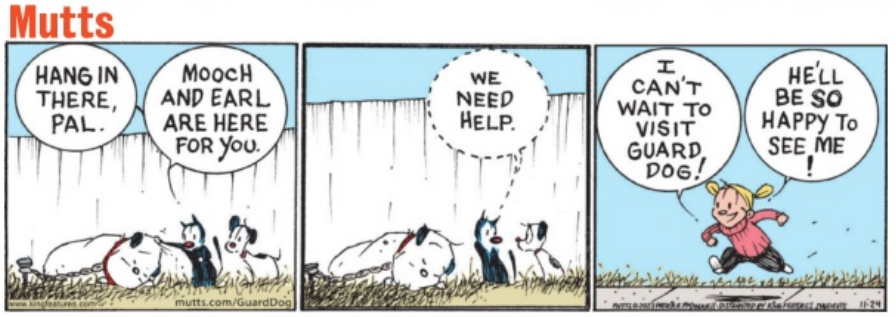
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

EVEN SANTA HAS TO PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE.
OH, BROTHER. EVEN I CAN MAKE A BETTER COMIC THAN THIS.
DEAN
CAN YOUR MOM TEACH ME HOW TO DRAW?
MY MOM CAN DO ANYTHING.
THIS IS A REQUEST, DEAN.
OH! YEAH, I'LL ASK HER!

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. You may bring some artefacts or household items to renovate your house. You may plan to start a new business in partnership and expect some long-distance travel. Making faith with your spouse may bring harmony to your domestic life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office and bond well with your boss, possibly leading to new responsibilities and promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured, and you may receive good incentives for your work. Disputes with siblings may also be resolved, and job seekers may find new opportunities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, children's education may keep you busy, and you may plan for their higher studies. Couples may receive good news regarding children. You may consider updating your skills for a job promotion and singles may find their soul mate. Those in the education, consulting, or banking sectors will do well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and struggle to fulfil your responsibilities. Be cautious with investments as there may be losses, and ensure to read documents carefully before signing. Concerns about elders' health may arise, and it's advisable to postpone house renovations.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Disputes with siblings may be settled, enhancing your relationship with them. Your energy levels will help you complete difficult projects easily. Expanding your network after a work-related trip is likely, and helping those in need may boost your social status.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with family gatherings and appear more polite, improving your image among relatives and friends. Spending on items to enhance your social status is favoured, and you may receive good news from a close relative.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, elders' blessings may increase your patience and focus, aiding in achieving your goals. Balancing expenditures and savings will boost your financial stability.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, dissatisfaction and laziness may affect your work pace, leading to delays. Lovebirds should avoid making important decisions about marriage, and job seekers may face disappointments in interviews.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your internal strength may bring happiness and short-term gains in investments. Building a good relationship with your boss could lead to promotions, increasing your prestige in society. You can expect some work-related travel.

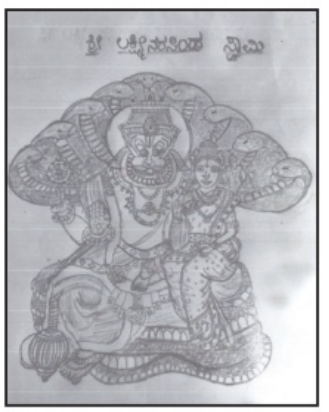
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon, leading to high positions at work and improved performance. Meeting influential people may guide you in improving your life, and managing domestic issues will enhance harmony at home.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel happier and plan to visit religious places for inner strength. Donating to charity or religious institutions is likely, and overseas travel for education or work may be on the horizon. Couples may find suitable matches, while singles may meet their soul mates.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel lonely and engage in self-analysis. Expect changes in your position or environment, and be mindful of being arrogant, as it may affect your personal life. Avoid adventurous tours for now.

KIDZONE

Rudhav R, 7 years, Presidency School



Vijayashree Karur, 11 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(49÷1-8)+343+4 =
(49-8)+347 =
41+347 = 388

BULL'S EYE
hint, INHIBIT, thin

STRIKE OUT

V	I	O	L	E	N	T		A	V	I	A	N		
O		D		R		A	B	O	I	L		E		
Y	I	D	D	I	S	H		C	A	E	C	A		
A	M		C		I		L					R		
G	R	E	T	A		T	A	S	S	E	L	S		
E		N		T	I	C	K		Y					
S	A	T	A	N	S		E	I	F	F	E	L		
	L		Y	A	R	D		O		O		O		
S	I	N	C	E	R	E		S	P	U	R	N		
I	S	E	R	E		C	H	E	D	D	A	R		
K		Y		A	N		N		G					
S	K	I	D		P	A	R	S	E	S				
R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N		S					
S		O		N		O		U		G				
S	U	D	O	K	U		P	A	R	S	E	S		
	N		L	P	S					L				
R	I	N	S	E		C	L	U	E	D				
	T			G	A	T		A						
H	I	D	E	N		R	O	M	A	N	S			
R		E		I		O		S		O				
O	G	A	M		N	U	P	T	I	A	L	S		
	A		N		X		D			E				
J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R		M					

QUICK

	S			R	E	V	E	R	S	E	S			
	R		Y		T		G		T		E			
	S		O		N		O		U		G			
S	U	D	O	K	U		P	A	R	S	E	S		
	R		N		S						L			
R	I	N	S	E		C	L	U	E	D				
	T			G	A	T		A						
H	I	D	E	N		R	O	M	A	N	S			
R		E		I		O		S		O				
O	G	A	M		N	U	P	T	I	A	L	S		
	A		N		X		D			E				
J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R		M					

FAST FIVE

A	D	A	G	E
M	U	D	R	A
N	O	M	A	S
I	M	I	D	E
C	O	N	E	D

RIDDLER
E, Be, Bet, Beat, Beast, Stable, Bestial, Bastille.

SUDOKU

6	8	9	1	3	7	4	5	2
2	1	5	9	6	4	7	3	8
4	7	3	8	2	5	1	6	9
8	5	1	3	9	6	2	4	7
3	4	6	7	8	2	5	9	1
9	2	7	4	5	1	3	8	6
7	6	8	2	4	3	9	1	5
1	9	4	5	7	8	6	2	3
5	3	2	6	1	9	8	7	4

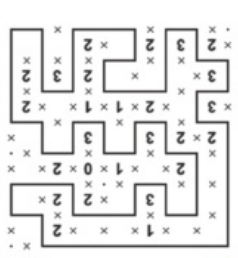
MENSA PUZZLE
25: there are two alternate sequences: +4 and -3

QUOTE UNCODE
As a man is, so he sees. As the eye is formed, such are its powers.

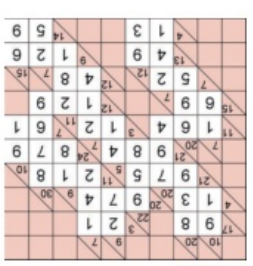
GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 6 − 1 − 3 = 10
Medium
7 − 5 + 6 + 4 = 12
Hard
7 − 5 − 1 + 4 = 5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Eh, Her, Hare, Share, Hearts, Shatter.

LOOP



KAKURO



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Praise from producer— Alia Bhatt shared that her decision to be a part of the streaming show 'Poacher' as executive producer was a culmination of many factors including the brilliant narrative sketched by Richie and a stellar cast

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Gut feeling

That is what Kriti goes by to choose her films

Kriti Sanon has been part of movies for 10 years now, delivering films like Mimi, Luka Chuppi, Bhediya, Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya etc. She is currently in the most exciting phase of her career, with many interesting projects in the pipeline. She already has The Crew on floors with Tabu and Kareena Kapoor, while she has launched her own production house too, under which she is making her first film Do Patti, starring Kajol alongside her.

Coming back to the world of movies, Kriti has always made her choices based on what her gut tells her, and she never goes by what is trending in the market. In an exclusive conversation with ETimes, she said, "I dont think on the lines of what's working and what's not working, it is more about instinctively reacting to what I hear."

She also added, "I feel what is working now … if I say yes to it now, by the time it comes out, it might not be working so you cant be going by that logic … like what is working now has already worked, so I should have thought about it back in time."

The actress also revealed that whatever she knows about acting, she learnt it on the job. She said, "I have learnt everything on the job, I didn't know what a mark was …what was camera placing … I would stand and I would be told to look this way as your face is not visible. So I literally had baby steps and learnt everything."

—ETimes

Designing for beau

Model-designer Gabriella Demetriades turned costume designer for her boyfriend Arjun Rampal for his upcoming film 'Crakk: Jeetegaa Toh Jiyegaa'.

Gabriella said that her beau's looks needed to reflect someone who was super comfortable with his body and very powerful without ever being over the top.

Talking about Arjun's look in the film, Gabriella shared: "It's an extreme sports film, high-octane, and it's a very cool world that has been created, and Arjun's character is a very strong character within this world. His looks needed to reflect someone who was comfortable with his body without being over the top."

She aimed for a commanding yet "understated aesthetic, echoing Arjun's personal style".

Gabriella added: "We wanted his attire to exude power while maintaining a sense of effortless coolness. .."

—ETimes

No greater award

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has been receiving appreciation for her performance in 'Bhakshak'. However, received special feedback and a gift from her "biggest critic" who is none other than her mother Sumitra Pednekar.

Taking to Instagram, Bhumi shared this sweet moment from her life with her fans and penned a long note.

Bhumi, who received a gold coin from her mother, explained the tradition that her mother has followed when she enjoys her work in a project

The note read, "Mummy gives me a gold coin every time she feels I have grown as an actor. After watching Bhakshak, i remember how overwhelmed mom got and I somewhere knew I have another one coming my way. I remember the ride back home. No one spoke. Once we were home, samiksha started talking to me and there were just tears rolling down her eyes. She said - This film is beyond what it does for you, it's about what it does for those children. We can't fail them again. Today I have 7 coins from mom :)There is no award greater than the one that I get from my family @sumitrapednekar @samikshapednekar thank you for being my biggest cheerleader and my biggest critic."

— ANI

Hilarious flick with message to all

Director Santosh Kodenkeri, who helmed Home Stay and Ondanondu Kaladalli Obba Raja Idda, has included too many elements and characters in Ravike Prasanga based on a small subject – a piece of cloth. But he successfully ensured screen space for all characters and also conveyed a much-needed message to youth, professionals including lawyers, and parents.

The movie opens with artistes preparing to perform Yakshagana at Sampaje village. While villagers are eager to watch Yakshagana, Sanvi aka Gundamma (Geetha Bharathi Bhat) is seen going to Chandranna Ladies' Tailor Shop. Later Sanvi visits the local police station holding a blouse in her hand. Police mistake Sanvi as a rape victim. She requests police to act tough against Chandranna (Sampath Maitreya), a well-known ladies' tailor at Sampaje. The fuming Police Inspector summons Chandranna to the police station. The Police Inspector asks Chandranna why he raped Sanvi. Chandranna pleads ignorance.

Meanwhile, the director introduces a flashback to narrate how Sanvi failed to get a suitable match for her marriage even after her parents brought 32 marriage proposals. How her mother Sarojamma (Padmaja Rao) asks her to be ready to meet a NRI and how she approaches Chandranna to stitch a suitable blouse to impress the NRI boy. Chandranna agrees to stitch it. What happens to the blouse? Why does Sanvi approach the consumer court and who marries her? If you want answers to these questions, watch Ravike Prasanga.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Geetha Bharathi Bhat is at her best. As a prospective bride, she has acted well. Padmaja Rao, as gadibidi Sarojamma who threatens to commit suicide at the drop of a hat, is convincing. Suman Ranganath, as a judge of a consumer court, looks glamorous. Rakesh Maiya, as a young advocate who does not know the difference between files and piles, has provided good support.

One-liners between Sampath Maitreya and other actors make the audiences giggle. The drawback of the movie is the running time – 152 minutes and 30 seconds. All in all, the movie is worth watching for all age groups as it conveys a message to them.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

RAVIKE PRASANGA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Santosh Kodenkeri
- **ACTORS** Geetha Bharathi Bhat, Suman Ranganath, Rakesh Maiya, Sampath Maitreya, Padmaja Rao
- **Duration** 152 minutes
- **Certification** U/A